

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

Form Bi-689

FIELD DIARY

Mr. Vernon Bailey
Pennsylvania & Beavers
(Official title.)

Period, April 7, 1926 to _____

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If you hasten
Time, like a golden butterfly
will flee before you

If you tarry
Time, slowly like a quail-cox
will follow you

Juan Ramon Jimenez
translated from Spanish

1924
April 7. Left Washington at
7:25 PM for Pittsburgh to give
a talk on mammals at Swindley
and then join W. C. Chidcock for
a trip to Potter Co. to photograph
beavers.

April 8. Arrived at Pittsburgh 7:40
AM and at Swindley at 10 AM.
Raining so we could not go up
Big Provis Creek so we explored
caves and coal shafts for bats
and set traps for live animals.
Rained all day.

Scenicely Region

Deer a few
Opossum -
Sylvilagus mearnsi con. (not far away, (wallace & hardwicki)
Sciurus praeceps S. n. rufiventris
" carduius leucotis
" leucotis
" ludovicianus loquax &
Tamias striatus fisheri
Thomomys monax
Sciuropterus volans
Peromyscus leucopus
Microtus pennsylvanicus
" pictus scapularis
Neotoma pennsylvanica
Tifer septentrionalis
Erethizon dorsatum
Zapus hudsonicus
Vulpes
Urocyon
Procyon
Mephitis ~~peteta~~ nigra
Lutreola

April 9 - Set more traps up the
Minkie just across road from
Scenicely in prairie, 2n PM.
Went to traps set there as far as
we could with Auto, left it and walked
7 miles up Big Minkie creek to
a farm house about 18 miles
SW. of Scenicely in southern
part of Beaver Co., 5 miles SW. of Watah.
Set traps, exposed cliffs, saw
birds and got all the mammal
notes we could.

Mustela noboberacensis
alleganiensis
Lutra canadensis
Ursus americanus
Scalopus aquaticus macrourus
Condylura cristata
Parascalops breweri
Dorix fuscus fuscus Both from Beaver & other
leucurus
Merasaurus
Blariva brevirostris
- parva?
 Bats - 10 or 12 species.

Gymnophenges Cooperi storeri
 See Rhoos, Beaver Spec. & other
 localities both sides of Pottaboo
Eptesicus fuscus - Beaver Rhoos
Pipistrellus subflavus "
Nycticeius borealis "
Myotis beauforti "
Nycticeius canescens Rhoos
Myotis subalatus Carrot

April 10. Seminole
 Talked about the mammals of
 the vicinity to the Seminole
 Audubon Soc. in evening at
 the Club house. Had a very
 appreciative audience of about 100
 numbers & friends & children
 and the children were especially
 interested in the mice in cages
 which ran on their wheels while
 I talked.

April 11. Sunday.
 Went with Mr. Christy to see the
 Fox squirrels which are com-
 mon tame in some of the yards of
 Seminole. Also saw Red squirrels
 and Chipmunks out in the woods
 and pastures. Heard a Louisiana waterthrush
 singing in the park.

April 12 Went up to Pittsburgh and
out to Nasman McClelland's at
Shady Side and helped him
fix up photographic apparatus for
taking moving pictures of the mice.
Worked until 11 PM and got a
very good set of pictures of
Microtus, Peromyscus & Eotomys.

April 13. Packaged up and got
ready for next trip to the
beavers of Potter Co.

Apr 14. Took early train to Williamsport where we met Mr. Slaughterback and drove to Coudersport, 100 miles north. Interesting country and good roads most of way but got stuck in mud a couple of times and got in late. Had to stay all night at Coudersport where we found Van Cleve and Breyer who will go over to Conrad with us in morning.

A warm day but began to snow in evening.

Slaughterback told me of getting three bobcats last winter that weighed 30, 32 & 35 lbs.

Also of 4 very young black bears found in a den under old log and caught the last week in February.

Opis 15. A little snow on ground in morning, clear and cold, down near zero & ground frozen hard. Air full of frost and a very wintry feeling. 15° above zero at 9 AM when we started for Hull. Van Cleve, the local trapper and Berriger the local game warden came with us for the 20 miles drive over the high ridge and down to Hull, or Conrad, where the beavers are. Found the roads frozen but rough and latty when it began to thaw they were slippery on the mud. On the cold slopes there was still old snow and in the roads old ice, but with chains we came along very nicely. Reached Hull just before noon.

In afternoon set two beaver traps and 9 live traps for small game and 10 mousetraps.

May 1, 1922

The beavers are more numerous here than last year, although about 16 have been caught at various & other streams. Three were killed on by automobile on road, and two caught in mink & muskrat traps. There are now 16 main dams, not counting the small & secondary, and 22 occupied houses. Small colonies or pairs have crossed over the head of streams, in spring high water and established colonies on the head of Kettle Creek, Pine Creek and the Alleghany River, all on different drainage systems.

Aside from all these losses in the Cimarron drainage it seems evident from the houses, dams and other signs that there at least 75 beavers here now. This would fully double the number here last year including the increase of those moved last summer.

The Wardens & Mr. Van Cleve and Slaughterback and the hotel men who live here all know the beavers personally and all agree that this is a conservative estimate of the numbers of beavers here now.

One old large female has raised her family of young for two years past at the splashdown just above Hull and several people have seen the 5 young last summer and the summer before. The first yearlings were caught last summer in five traps and more than another creek. Last summer Mr. Van Cleve says he saw the 5 yearlings when he heard the young crying in the house, and later saw the 5 young out in evening.

The beavers have wintered along the creek above the hotel where there are no aspens and have fed on blue buck, beech, river birch, willow, alder and small stuff.

They have cut a few apples trees
many wild cherry, and several
small elms that have been cut out.
Still there are lots of aspens
up on the slopes that could
be hauled down for fuel for the houses.

The season is much later than
last year at this date. There are
no flowers, not even maple and elm,
and little show of green grass on
the meadows. There is no snow
in the valleys but solid ice under
the leaves in the woods in shady
places.

April 19. — Caught nothing
in the beaver traps so moved
them, one to the splash dam
above the hotel and the other two miles
up Stover's Run where there is
a large colony of beavers and
they have done an enormous amount

of building and cutting. They have
6 or 7 dams with good deep pools
and a dozen secondary dams.
There are several old deserted houses
and two or three good used houses
and a great many bad houses.
They have practically cleared
several acres of open forest land and
are working up the stream and abiding
the roughest cuttings below.

There are no aspens but they
are living on ^{fallen} birch, beech,
hornbeam, maple, soft sugar,
cherry, ironwood, and even hickory.
Several small hemlocks had been
peeled but not cut down, and
several large sugar maples had
been peeled and not cut.

Cards of good solid wood with
the bark eaten off are built into
the dams.

Ernest E. Hunsinger, Conrad, Pa.

Ernest says they killed 2 small black bear near here last Dec. 15, each containing 2 small embryos the size of mice. Several ~~bear~~ have been found with 4 cubs.

He says three bears that he has known about had hibernated in shallow places scooped out in the ground and lined with leaves, but others have been found under logs or stumps or brush.

Picked up a porcupine skull and Ernest says he has shot 25 this winter in the game refuge.

Ernest says he kept 2 coons over winter, they were big and fat and stayed in their boxes without eating from Oct. 1 to about the middle of Feb.

After setting the traps we waited until 5 PM when an old big beaver came out and went down stream through two ponds. Then we snared it in a small pond and John Berry caught it by the tail but fell down and it got away.

On the way home we saw another cross the road and ran it into the creek where Van Cleave caught it by the tail and we brought it home in a horse sled. It was very dark but not very large, about 30 lbs.

Pennsylvania

Hunting season of 1925

Elk	6
Doe	7287 - 2 point & little
Bear	470 - cubs protected
Porcupines	3241
Grouse	
Robins	
Squirrels	

April 17

Found a big old beaver in traps at upper end of pond on Rocklick Creek, about 2 miles north of Conrad, close to where the first beavers were put in here in 1920.

The stock was brought from Algonquin Park, Canada, and is of good dark brown fur.

The old beaver had evidently been in the traps all night sitting to her eyes in icewater but seemed warm and comfortable after she had been out in the sunshine and cold wind for 15 minutes being photographed she was shivering with the cold.

Placed in gunny sack and carried about 2 miles on back of John Berger, she was taken to open meadow and photographed, but still

Pennsylvania

and working pictures. Then put in small parcel she was photographed some more while swimming and eating and carrying branches in her hands.

Then placed in box of straw with feed and water for the night.

Much cutting of hardwood timber at these dams and ponds because there is no other timber.

April 18 - Started home early in morning on frozen ground but found a car frozen into the mud and blocking the road a few miles out. Got into Lodetown about 10 AM and Mr. Clinton left us for Pittsburgh.

Took the old beaver along in gunny sack and kept her on the back seat cushion beside me all

the way, but it warmed up and
she was very fat and uncomfortable
and restless. At Rockboren
she took one bite out of an apple
and dropped dead on the ~~evening~~
found her very fat and full
of a large foetus ready for
birth in a week or ten days.
Made specimens of old beaver,
and two of the foetuses, gave the other
two to Glaisterback for the Conservation
Commission of Two to the warden
at Mifflinburg.

The embryos had shaken down
out of place and four were
under the intestines against the
wall of the abdomen with round
cardo twisted many times around.
Two were still in the proper place
above the intestines. Death
may have been from heat
or from strangulation of circulation
in embryo.

Wednesday 17 Visited ranger station 15 miles west of Mifflinburg and picked out place for travel house and camp on small creek, then went up to fire station on top of high sandstone plateau in Monroe Co., overlooking many valleys and mountain ridges.

No flowers and little trace of green.

Caught a small woodlark and brought it home in a quavadoak.

Drove back to Mifflinburg and Hazzardshury and reached Washington at 8:50 P.M.

Wilton to Harrisburg \$ 2.38

April 25: Left Washington
at 12:50 PM for Harrisburg
and arrived at 4:20 PM.
Met Slaughterback at the station
who drove to Hibernburg that
night. Had supper with the
strangers, Miss Reader and
went to the Jump Inn for the
night.

April 26. Drove 15 miles west to
a little brook near Laurelton
where we built a beaver fence
around a pond and built a 4 foot
square house of boards in side.
The house has a door with padlock
and a beaver hole in the floor
at the water level, with trap
doors, so we can shut the
beaver in and enter the house
at any time. It took three of us
half a day to do the whole job.

Returned to Washington at
9 P.M.

April 27 Went to New York to
Arthur Manual Society annual
meeting and to give paper on
Stereovators in some of our Native Manuals

May 1
May 2. Returned to Washington
9 P.M.

1924

May 12 Left Washington
4:50 PM for Harrisburg, arriving
8 PM. Went to Standard Hotel
mail depo & called up Seth
Gordon of the Conservation Dept.
had arranged for trip to be over
now tomorrow morning.

May 13 With Suttler,
Coulter and _____ drove,
went to Mifflinburg by auto and
out to beaverhouse near Franklin.
Photographed old beaver and her
4 babies as much as we wanted
to.

The young were born Saturday, May 8
with eyes open and lower incisors out
and upper almost out. They were bright
and active and able to run around the
first day. On May 11 four were

Weighed, one 14, two 16 and one 17
ounces when 4 days old. They are
not much larger today when 6 days
old and photographed with their mother.
They would run about on the ground and
cry when hungry and follow their mother
for food but as she has only 4
nipples they have to take turns and
always two have to wait. They
generally nurse from underneath as
the mother sits up or lies with
room under her breast and throat
for them. She is perfectly
gentle and the young are as
gentle and lovely as they can be.

After the young were put back in
the house one crawled off and went
up and off across the floor
and went into the water hole and
swam twice across it and then
went back.

1924

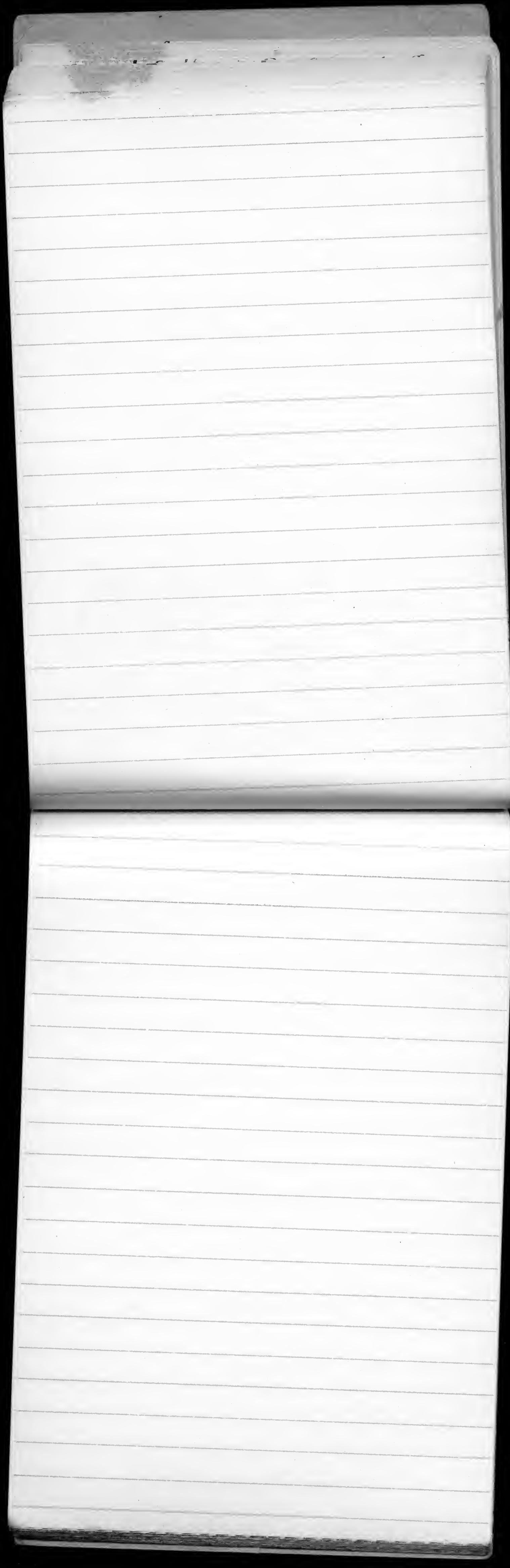
May 30, Left Washington for Harrisburg 10:50 AM & arrived 2:15 PM. Met McClintock and ~~Stauffer~~ & drove out to Mifflintown & stayed all night.

May 31 - Rained all night but cleared off about 10 AM and we could photograph baby bears and cub bears all we wanted to. Got movies of young and old bears in pond and out of bear eating from a bottle. Went to Woodward Caves, some 10 or 15 miles west of Laurelton but found no bats. They have left recently. Caves is cold, 44° F. at present and the same all the year they say. Still many bats winter there.

Returned to Harrington at
10 PM but trains all gone
so staid over to town of
Flint, and got home 10 AM.

1880-1881

Bear with 4 cubs young cubs
found under brush heap last week
in Sept. 1926. Elk Co. Pa.
Deep snow. Mother about
cubs too young to be weaned imm
but still kept for a while on the



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Hibernation
Hibernation
Castration
Diapause + variation
Birds, mammals, Reptiles, Fishes,
Insects + lower orders, + plants
Slides

Send Miss Reader, Mifflintown, Pa.

Beaver

Bats

Possums

Crows

Owls

